

### REMARKS

The applicant has filed a request for continuing examination in light of the examiner's statement that the proposed amendment submitted informally could not be considered without further search and further consideration and would not be entered for purposes of appeal.

The foregoing amendment formally submits the proposed amendments for further examination. In addition, claims 11, 15 and 16-18 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The present invention provides a novel support bracket for decorative items such as suspended flower containers, wind chimes, and decorative seasonal items on a post or tree.

None of the prior art addresses the problem of suspending decorative items on a vertical post or column as does the present invention. The prior art shows various structures useful in other non analogous applications such as tree stands and the like. Further consideration of the rejections, believed to have been overcome by the foregoing amendments, is respectfully requested.

Firstly, claims are presented which recite the presence of an unobstructed space encircling the object on which the device is suspended so that the load supporting member is suspended in space. Moreover, the device of the present invention is unsupported on the vertically extending object at any point above the elevation of the load supporting member.

It will be readily apparent that the device of the present invention is not suited for use as a hunting tree stand, for example. In attempting to support the weight of a

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person on a tree stand, the present device would be dangerous in that the load supporting member would be pivoted against the vertical object by the weight of the occupant and the likelihood of the occupant falling to the ground would be great. It is thus respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to modify the prior art devices directed to tree stands so as to arrive somehow at the present invention. These observations apply equally well to Gohn, Cuba, Riblet and Miller '974. Note that in the case of the devices of those patents that it is preferable to have the load supporting member actually chained to the tree.

It is believed that the secondary references such as Miller '974 and Krier, et al. '972 fail to overcome the shortcomings of the principal references and thus would not plead one to arrive at the support suitable for decorative applications as taught by the instant application.

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**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration of the rejections and withdrawal thereof is earnestly solicited. It is respectfully submitted that the application as amended is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner, or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicant's undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

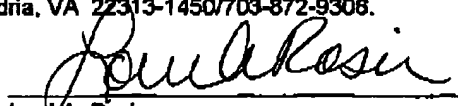
Respectfully submitted,

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Allan O. Maki (Reg. No. 20,623)  
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.  
313 South Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 371-8100  
(517) 371-8200 facsimile

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